



# School Programs



Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center  
6685 Coolidge Highway  
Troy, Mi 48098-1943  
248.524.3567

[www.troymi.gov/ParksRec/NatureCenter](http://www.troymi.gov/ParksRec/NatureCenter)

## Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center

**Hours:**

Monday	Closed
Tuesday—Saturday	8:30 am—4:30 pm
Sunday	12—5 pm

**Daily Admission Fee:** \$1 per person  
(waived if attending a program)

**Yearly Admission Passes:** \$10/Individual  
\$25/Family

## General Information

The Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center is a 100-acre educational facility composed of forest, meadow, marsh and streams. The interpretive center contains classrooms, a wildlife viewing area, changing natural history exhibits, a children’s nature area, an aqua-wall with live animals, a library and an American Mastodon Discovery Dig.

Our mission is to create passion for and knowledge of the natural world in the hearts and minds of our citizens, which will lead to increased understanding and stewardship of our natural environment. We do this by interpreting the natural world around us and acting as an educational resource in biology, ecology and natural history for all students, young and old! Our naturalists enjoy working with students to increase their knowledge and appreciation of the natural world.

We offer a variety of programs that meet your classroom’s needs. Each program is designed to provide students with hands-on experience with nature. We utilize animal mounts, pelts, skulls, shells, and other biofacts to ensure a first-class view of the world around us. Every program includes an indoor introduction and instruction followed by outdoor activities and/or a hike. Please be sure you and your students dress for the weather!

## Fees/Charges

School located in Troy		
Preschool		\$3/student or adult
K-12		\$2.50/student or adult
Any other school/group		
Preschool		\$3.50/student or adult
K-12		\$3/student or adult
Apple Cider Program(Preschool-2nd)		
Troy		\$5/student or adult
Non-Troy		\$5.50/student or adult
**Teachers are free of charge**		

For any program the minimum charge is equivalent to the cost of 15 people. We ask that you limit chaperones; they will be charged the same price as students.

Approximately 2 weeks prior to your visit, you will receive a confirmation letter and a pre-visit information packet.

All fees must be paid the day of the program. We accept cash, check or Visa/MasterCard only (please make checks payable to: *City of Troy—SNC*).

### Maple Syrup Rent-a-tap Program

Join in the syrup season and help support the SNC by renting a maple tap in our sugar bush for your classroom! Then come visit us for our maple syrup program in March. Your classroom can experience how maple syrup is made and then see their classroom name on their very own tree! Call the SNC for details!

## Cattail Cove Nature Shop

Our shop stocks a variety of educational items including books, CDs, games and discovery toys. We also have a great selection of small keepsakes that are popular with children of all ages!

## Year-Round Programs

**Trails and Tots** 4-5 yrs. 1.25 Hours  
A sensory approach introduces preschoolers to the out-of-doors. We investigate sights, sounds, and smells of the season, tame versus wild animals, different communities and living versus nonliving.

**Nature Newcomers** K-2 1.5 Hours  
This introduction to nature will familiarize your students with basic concepts of nature. A PowerPoint presentation for 1st and 2nd grade, hands-on learning and trail side activities are included.

**Wildlife Wonders** K-2 1.5 Hours  
We will identify the five vertebrate groups and the differences between them. Students will learn what makes a bird a bird or a fish a fish! On the trail, we watch for animal signs and play an outdoor game!

**Outdoors and You** 1-3 1.5 Hours  
We emphasize our connection with the natural world, by exploring the natural resources that provide our food, clothing and shelter. Students learn the roles of plants and animals in their communities.


**Whether the Weather** 2-3 1.5 Hours  
Join us as we explore what makes weather happen. There will be lots of hands-on activities and demonstrations, including our Teaching Tornado. Students will witness real scientific tools used to determine if it is raining, snowing, sunny, or cloudy!

**Nature 101** 3-6 1.5 Hours  
This course is a great introductory tour for our first time visitors! Similar to the Nature Newcomers, this program introduces some more advanced ecological concepts with the use of a PowerPoint presentation and engaging trail side activities.

**Which Way is North?** 5-6 2 Hours  
Join us as we explore maps and how to use a compass. After instruction on compass use, the students will go outside and play some compass games to practice their new skill on our compass course. Maximum: One class.



# Fall Programs




**Apples & Wagons**

**P-2**

**1.5 hours**

Come enjoy harvest time as we make real apple cider using our cider press! Program is a great introduction to the fall harvest and also includes a hay-ride! . Each class is responsible for supplying 1/2 bushel of apples for the press. **Please note:** This program takes place at the **Troy Farm** and is only offered in September and October. Maximum: Two classes.



**Log Life**

**K-2**

**1.5 Hours**

Peer into the hidden and mysterious life of a log and discover the wide variety of critters that live there. Insects, sow bugs and slugs are just a few of the many residents we will search for using bug boxes as we hike!

**Animal Homes & Habitats**

**K-3**

**1.5 Hours**


All wild animals require food, water and shelter to survive. This program focuses on the importance of shelter for wildlife. Students will see many kinds of animal homes both indoors and on the trail.

**Going Buggy**

**1-2**

**1.5 Hours**

Students will discover the importance of insects to animals, plants and people. They will learn to identify an insect and also how to distinguish it from other invertebrates. This fun, hands-on program will include observations with the use of sweep nets and bug boxes. Available only until October 15. Maximum: Two classes.



**The Power of Water**

**1-3**

**1.5 hours**

Specially-designed introduction to earth sciences for the younger crowd. Instruction includes the water cycle, erosion, major land formations, what the earth is made of and the importance of the sun. We will connect these resources to our daily lives!

**Geology: Can You Dig It?!**

**4-6**

**2 Hours**

In this interactive program we will examine rocks, minerals, fossils, sand, and soil, to learn how they are formed and what roles they play in our daily lives. The outdoor hike offers an opportunity to see natural forces at work. Maximum: Two classes.

# Fall Programs (con’t)

**Insect Insights**

**3-6**

**2 Hours**

Come and discover some of the most remarkable and numerous animals around us - insects. Students will learn the basics of insect I.D., and the roles insects play in their natural communities. They will do field observation, sweep net sampling and data analysis. Available only until October 15. Maximum: Two classes.

**No Bones About It**

**3-6**

**2 Hours**

This program focuses on the basic biology of invertebrates! By exploring their ecology, behavior and complex interrelationships, we learn about food webs and their “jobs” in natural communities. Outside, we will discover the many invertebrates that live at the nature center.

**Seizing Sunshine**

**4-6**

**2 Hours**

Examine the energy flow from the sun to plants, animals and people. We will see how each one utilizes energy and what their energy sources are. We’ll trace the path of the sun’s energy through the ecosystems with an outdoor activity and hike.


# Maple Syrup Programs

**Maple Syruping**

**K-2**

**1.5 Hours**

Students learn where maple syrup comes from, how it is made and who made it first. On the trail, they discover how sap is collected, taste sap if it is flowing and find out how it is made into syrup. Students will also participate in several trail side demonstrations. **Please note:** This program is only available in March. Maple sugar candy is available for an additional fee.



**Sunshine to Syrup**

**3-6**

**1.5 Hours**

Follow the path from summer sunshine to sweet syrup and discover how nature’s food factories (leaves) produce sugar through photosynthesis. Students will also participate in several trail side demonstrations while learning about the basics of sugar bush operation and forest ecology. **Please note:** This program is only available in March. Maple sugar candy is available for an additional fee.

# Winter Programs

**Animal Tracks & Signs**

**K-2**

**1.5 Hours**

Can you identify an animal from its track? Was it walking or running? What do tracks and other signs tell you about its activity? These and other questions will be explored as students learn more about animals’ winter activities. This program is available with or without snow and does hike outdoors. This program is not available in March.


# Spring Programs

**Log Life**

**K-2**

**1.5 Hours**

Peer into the hidden and mysterious life of a log and discover the wide variety of critters that live there. Insects, sow bugs and slugs are just a few of the many residents we will search for using bug boxes as we hike.



**Water World**

**K-2**

**1.5 Hours**


Come and use the pond to enhance your students’ understanding of aquatic life and their basic needs for survival. We will identify characteristics and look at the life cycles of the aquatic invertebrates. Then it’s time to get our hands dirty as we go ‘dipping’ for critters in the pond. Old shoes and clothes are recommended as kids may get muddy or wet. Available starting April 1. Maximum: One class.

**Going Buggy**

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**No Bones About It**

**3-6**

**2 Hours**

This program focuses on the basic biology of invertebrates including a brief overview of vertebrates. By exploring ecology, behavior and complex interrelationships, we learn about food webs and their “jobs” in natural communities. Outside, we will discover many invertebrates that live at the nature center.



**Wet and Wild**

**3-6**

**1.5 Hours**

This hands-on exploration leads students into the fascinating world of pond life. We will collect and examine critters to see who eats whom in the underwater web of life. Old shoes and clothes are recommended; as kids may get muddy or wet. Available starting April 1. Maximum: One class.

**Seizing Sunshine**

**4-6**

**2 Hours**

Examine the energy flow from the sun to plants, animals and people. We will see how each one utilizes energy and what the energy sources are. We’ll trace the path of the sun’s energy through the ecosystems with an outdoor activity and hike.